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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

7th June.—Royal Air Force bombers attacked the French invasion coast. They also carried out a daylight attack on an enemy convoy off the coast of Holland and set on fire two ships of 5,000 tons each.

8th June.—Royal Air Force bombers attacked docks at Brest and Coastal Command aircraft attacked docks and shipping in Bergen. Aircraft of the Fighter Command carried out offensive patrols over the Straits of Dover and occupied country.

9th June.—Several formations of the latest type of Messerschmitt fighter planes that flew over the south-east coast of Britain met with rough handling by British fighters.

Royal Air Force bombers attacked Western Germany, their main targets being Essen and Dortmund where large fires were started.

10th June.—The Royal Air Force made widespread attacks on enemy shipping off the coasts of Norway, Holland, Belgium and France and had many engagements with enemy fighter-planes.

Sir Archibald Sinclair, British Air Minister, announced that over 450 enemy aircraft were destroyed in all theatres of war in May—240 in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, 63 over and round Britain during day and 144 by night.

11th June.—The Royal Air Force attacked invasion ports and the naval base of Brest. A 5,000-ton German tanker was set ablaze in the Straits of Dover.

12th June.—The Royal Air Force made a sharp raid on Calais. Targets in the industrial areas of the Ruhr were also heavily bombed.

The German Air Force made widespread raids on England; and bombs were dropped on a West Midlands town.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

6th June.—South African forces arrived in Egypt in large numbers.

Royal Air Force bombers attacked aerodromes in Rhodes and also bombed Derna and Benghazi.

7th June.—Cyprus got ready to face any possible German assault. The Germans mined the waters round the island.

Thousands of prisoners and a considerable quantity of war materials were captured in Abyssinia when the Imperial troops crossed the Omo river during their advance on Jimma.

8th June.—Benghazi was turned into a blazing inferno by Royal Air Force bombers. Derna aerodrome and barracks were also attacked and there were bombing and machine-gun attacks in Jimma area.

The Germans launched their second savage air attack on Alexandria, subjecting the civilians in the city to yet another all-night blitz.

9th June.—Lieutenant-General Sir James Marshall Cornwall assumed command of the British Forces in Egypt.

10th June.—As a result of operations in the region round the Great Lakes and River Omo, 45,000 square miles of Italian territory were captured by the British Imperial Forces, who also accounted for four Italian divisions and took 3,900 prisoners.

The Royal Air Force continued to hammer away at the Axis bases of Benghazi and Derna in Libya.

11th June.—Air activity was reported from the Tobruk sector. The Royal Air Force bombed Benghazi, Derna, Benina, Gambut and Gazala.

12th June.—Indian troops acting in co-operation with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force made a surprise landing and captured the port of Assab. Two Italian Generals and a Captain of the Italian Navy were taken prisoners. Abyssinian Patriot forces occupied the important town of Nekemti.

Units of the French Fleet left Toulon for Eastern Mediterranean.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

6th June.—President Roosevelt at a Press Conference stated that Mr. Winant, American Ambassador, had not brought from England "even the tenth cousin of a peace offer".

Mr. Roosevelt ordered the United States Maritime Commission to seize 80 foreign ships lying idle in American harbours.

Mr. Cordell Hull, U.S. Secretary of State, said at a Press Conference that America stood firm against any change in the Far Eastern *status quo*.

7th June.—The United States battleship, *South Dakota*, built at a cost of over 13 million pounds, was launched and immediately afterwards the keel was laid of a 10,000-ton cruiser.

The French Ambassador, Mr. Henry Haye, was twice refused an interview by Mr. Cordell Hull.

It was reported that President Roosevelt had ordered the seizure of the French liner *Normandie*.

8th June.—It was revealed that Martinique and Guadeloupe were patrolled daily by United States planes and boats, thanks to an arrangement with the French Government.

Air-mailing his Legion of Honour decoration to Marshal Petain, Mr. Samuel Hardenchurch, President of the Carnegie Institute, cabled: "I am relinquishing this once proud ribbon, because under your recreant Government, it has lost its value. The Legion of Honour is dead until General de Gaulle and all Free Frenchmen restore it."

9th June.—President Roosevelt broke the strike at the North American Aviation Factory by ordering the Army to take over.

It was stated that an American destroyer, picking up survivors in a British vessel sunk off Greenland, had to drop depth-charges when an enemy submarine tried to interfere.

10th June.—A report that the United States steamer *Robin Moor* had been torpedoed by a German submarine in South Atlantic was received by the Navy Department at Washington.

The United States House of Representatives passed the ten thousand million dollars Army Appropriation Bill.

11th June.—President Roosevelt reported on the operation of the Lease and Lend Act to Congress.

12th June.—Mr. Sumner Welles, U.S. Under-Secretary of State, announced that the Robin Moor was undoubtedly sunk by a German submarine.

GREECE AND ITALY

6th June.—Evidence came to light of the brutal terrorist methods employed by the Germans in dealing with Greek workers in the Athens district.

9th June.—It was officially announced that the British anti-aircraft cruiser *Calcutta* and the destroyers *Hereward* and *Imperial* were lost during the withdrawal from Crete.

10th June.—Mussolini declared that "the whole of Greece, including Athens, will be occupied by Italy."

Mr. Churchill announced in the Commons that while British losses in the Battle of Crete were about 15,000 men killed, wounded or missing, the German losses were 5,000 drowned and 12,000 killed or wounded in addition to 180 fighters and bombers and 250 troop-carriers lost.

12th June.—His Majesty the King telegraphed to King George of Greece "We share your grief but we also share your hopes."

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

6th June.—General Dentz, Vichy's High Commissioner in Syria, broadcasting from Beirut, justified Franco-German co-operation by saying "We must live."

A serious difference of opinion was reported between General Weygand and Admiral Darlan regarding Syrian policy.

8th June.—Free French and British Imperial Forces under the Command of Gen. Wilson entered Syria and the Lebanon.

Gen. Catroux issued a declaration on behalf of Gen. de Gaulle guaranteeing the liberty and independence of Syria and the Lebanon and undertaking to negotiate a treaty with these objects. The British Government associated themselves with this promise.

Gen. Wavell in a proclamation to the soldiers of France in Syria said that British action was necessary because Syria and the Lebanon were meant by the Germans to be a first stage in the conquest of French colonies. "We have come in considerable force and any resistance on your part would be useless" added the proclamation.

9th June.—In their penetration into Syria the Allied forces advanced beyond Tyre. Four thousand French troops with modern equipment joined the British in the Djebel Druse area. The Free French Forces captured 140 German parachutists.

The Iraqi Government broke off diplomatic relations with Italy.

All communications were cut off between Turkey and Syria.

When German aircraft flying towards Syria crossed Turkish territory, one was shot down and the other machines made forced landings. The pilots were interned.

10th June.—British forward troops had reached a position 15 miles from Damascus, crossing the Litani river. The R.A.F. gave magnificent support. A mechanized division from Iraq was marching on Aleppo.

11th June.—It was confirmed that British Naval landings had taken place on the Syrian coast. The Allies continued to progress into the interior of Syria.

In quick retaliation for a German air raid on Haifa, the Royal Air Force rushed to Aleppo and took a heavy toll of the German machines returning to that air base.

12th June.—The Allied troops advancing along the coast were within six miles of Sidon. They occupied the airport of Der-ez-Zor and Merd-Ayoum. The Royal Air Force raided Aleppo and Beirut.

SHIPPING

6th June.—British naval forces encountered and sank three enemy supply ships and an armed trawler.

8th June.—In the past three months, it was revealed, an average of one enemy ship a day had been sunk. The actual figures for the period were 83 sunk and 72 damaged, 18 of them very severely.

9th June.—Mr. Charles Kettering, the famous American engineering magnate, stated that the problem of night bombers " was licked now " in England by detection devices. He referred to the development of a device to catch the German submarines on the surface at night.

The British Admiralty announced the sinking of two more enemy supply ships.

12th June.—Many U.S. cargo ships were transferred to the Panamanian registry, enabling them to operate between New York and the United Kingdom without violating the U.S. Neutrality Law.

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FAR EAST

6th June.—The Netherlands Indies representative in the economic negotiations with Japan at Batavia refused to take part in Japan's so-called " New Order in East Asia."

Seven hundred persons died of suffocation in a huge underground tunnel owing to poor ventilation in Chungking during a night air raid by Japanese planes.

7th June.—There was considerable diplomatic activity in Tokyo. Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, was visited in turn by the British, Vichy and German Ambassadors.

There was another Japanese air raid on Chungking.

9th June.—Japanese Naval bombers claimed to have destroyed the suspension bridge across the Pehpa river in Kwechow province, cutting the highway connecting Chungking and Kunming.

10th June.—" Very unsatisfactory " was the description given by a Japanese spokesman of the firm reply of the Netherland Indies to Japan's demands at the Batavia Conference.

Air Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in the Far East, inspected the defences of Burma.

11th June.—Chinese guerillas were reported to be active in Manchukuo.

12th June.—Japan asked her representatives to withdraw from the Batavia Conference.

Two trade agreements between the Soviet and Japan were reported.

VICHY

6th June.—Questions relating to Africa were considered at a Cabinet meeting at Vichy, at which General Weygand was present.

7th June.—A statement issued by the French Government said that their policy was aimed at no one and did not harm the interests of any power. They stated that they were anxious to preserve friendly relations with the U.S.A. General Weygand returned to North Africa by air.

12th June.—The Vichy Government sent a further note to Britain regarding developments in Syria.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

6th June.—Growing unrest among all sections of the Norwegian people particularly against the brutalities committed by hired Quislings and Black Guards was voiced by 43 of the most prominent national organizations in a joint open letter to the German Commissioner Terboven.

8th June.—The Germans were reported to be preparing to convert Trondheim into a naval base.

11th June.—The Polish Cabinet in London approved of a declaration by General Sikorski, giving equal rights in the future Poland to all citizens, irrespective of nationality, race or religion.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.).

6th June.—The British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Stafford Cripps, arrived in Stockholm by air, *en route* to London.

9th June.—It was reported from Algeciras that bombs were dropped on a Spanish town north-east of Gibraltar.

10th June.—All the five occupants of a German plane were killed when it crashed in Eire territory.

Sir Stafford Cripps arrived in London. The Turkish Ambassador to Russia was also returning to Ankara to report.

12th June.—Snr. Suner, Spanish Foreign Minister, received the British, Portuguese, Italian, German and Chilean Ambassadors. He also saw the Papal Nuncio on the Turkish Charge d'Affairs.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 3rd June 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over North-West European coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
May 28, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over Straits of Dover and English Channel. R.A.F. day bomber attacks on shipping off Brest (5,000-ton merchantman hit). R.A.F. night bomber raids on N.W. Germany.	1 day bomber. 1 night bomber.	1 day fighter.
May 29, Thursday.	(No reports.)	..	..
May 30, Friday.	(No reports.)	..	..
May 31, Saturday.	(No reports.)	..	..
June 1, Sunday.	(No reports.)	1 day bombers.	..
June 2, Monday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over Channel and N. France (shipping troops). R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping in **Kiel Canal** and land objectives in Schleswig-Holstein; shipping off Norwegian coast (1 merchantman sunk). R.A.F. night bomber raids on Berlin; **Dusseldorf**; inland port at **Duisburg-Ruhrort**; other objectives in Ruhr; invasion base at Ostend; submarine base at St. Nazaire.	3 day bombers, 4 night bombers.	..
June 3, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on invasion base at Le Havre; aerodrome at Octeville, near Cherbourg.	1 day bomber.	..

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 3rd June 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European coastal waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
May 28	2 day bombers.	2 day bombers.
May 29	Nil.	1 night bomber.
May 30	Nil.	2 day bombers. 2 night bombers.
May 31	Nil.	3 night bombers.
June 1	Nil.	1 day fighter. 2 night bombers.
June 2	Nil.	1 day fighter. 2 day bombers.
June 3	Nil.	3 night bombers.

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The chief developments of the week are those in Syria where the British, Indian and other Imperial Forces, supporting Free French troops, are rapidly forestalling any possible German move. Vichy solemnly announced that it would defend Syria to the utmost and Marshal Petain called on his followers in Syria to defend "the territory entrusted to France by history" conveniently forgetting that as his Government had resigned from the League of Nations they had neither the moral nor the legal right to Syria. How little their authority in that country is worth is evident in the coming-over of many French troops to the Free French and Allied ranks—this has been admitted by the enemy radio.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Churchill made another memorable speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday. He answered critics of the campaign in Crete and had heartening information to impart regarding the strength of the air and other forces in the Middle East. The Prime Minister said in the course of his speech, which was delivered in easy, and confident tones to a quiet and attentive House: "We have been sending armaments to the Middle East ceaselessly by every route and method. We are doing our best to build up the largest possible air force in the Middle East." Mr. Churchill regretted that the burden had fallen so heavily on the splendid Australian and New Zealand troops. The British had lost about fifteen thousand men, killed, wounded and missing, exclusive of Greeks and Cretans. The German losses were five thousand drowned, twelve thousand killed or wounded and 180 fighters and bombers and 250 troop-carriers. Mr. Churchill revealed that German parachute troops did not wear New Zealand uniforms. The mistake arose from German paratroops driving the British and New Zealand wounded before them. Mr. Churchill said that the withdrawal of the Royal Air Force from Crete was decided on by the Air Force Commander of the Middle East on the recommendation of General Freyberg, Commander-in-Chief, Crete, and co curred in by the Fleet Air Arm. Following Crete, many improvements in the defence of aerodromes and mobility of forces had been made. Mr. Churchill added "Nothing will be stinted and not a moment will be lost." The Premier said that the Syrian advance was progressing with very little opposition and favourably. "We have," he declared, "no territorial designs in Syria or anywhere else in French territory. We seek no colonies or advantages for ourselves in this war." "The Syrian campaign," he said "would have been useless until the defence of Egypt was sound. "I was very glad when General Wavell reported that he was in a position to begin the Syrian advance." Mr. Churchill declared that the productivity in British factories was not falling off at an 'alarming rate' as stated by Mr. Hore-Belisha in a speech in a country district. Production was not disorganized by the raids but was increasing. The monthly average of production of guns and heavy tanks for the first quarter of 1941 was fifty per cent greater than that of the last quarter of 1940. Mr. Churchill said "The Battle of the Atlantic is well-maintained by us and May was the best month in the Atlantic." During May the shipping losses inflicted on the Germans were three-quarters of that inflicted on us. Winding up with a reference to Britain's single-handed fight against Germany and Italy and the treachery of Vichy, Mr. Churchill said that if the next six months found them in no worse position than now, "a famous chapter will have been written in the martial history of Britain and the British Commonwealth of Nations."

ALLIES RE-STATE WAR AIMS

The Allied Governments have taken the opportunity to declare their resolve to continue the struggle against German aggression until victory and to state that there can be no peace so long as the German military threats to free peoples continue. Representatives of these Governments met in London on Thursday under the presidency of Mr. Churchill and adopted the following resolution: The Government of Great Britain and the Governments in Ireland and Canada, the Government of Belgium, the Provisional Czecho-Slovak Government, the Governments of Greece, Luxemberg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Yugoslavia and representatives of

General de Gaulle, Leader of the Free Frenchmen, engaged together in the fight against oppression, are resolved, firstly, that they will continue the struggle against German or Italian aggression until victory is won and they will mutually assist each other in their struggle to the utmost of their respective capacities. Secondly, that there can be no settlement, peace and prosperity so long as free peoples are coerced by violence into submission to domination by Germany or her associates, or live under the threat of such coercion. Thirdly, that the only true basis of enduring peace is the willing co-operation of free peoples in a world in which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security and that it is their intention to work together and with other free peoples both in war and peace to this end." In the course of yet another inspiring speech, the Premier said: "See how far we have travelled since those breathless days of June a year ago. Our solid, stubborn strength has stood the awful test. We are masters of our own air and now reach out in evergrowing retribution upon the enemy. The Royal Navy holds the seas. The Italian fleet cowers diminished in the harbour, the German navy is largely our ports, cities and factories have been powerless to quench the spirit of the British nation, to stop our national life or check the immense expansion of our war industry. Food and arms from across the oceans are coming safely in. Full provision to replace all sunken tonnage is being made here and still more by our friends in the United States. We are becoming an armed community. Our land forces are being perfected in equipment and training. Hitler may turn and trample this way and that through tortured Europe. He may spread his course far and wide and carry his curse with him; he may break into Africa or into Asia, but it is here, in this island fortress, that he will have to reckon in the end. We shall strive to resist by land and sea. We shall be on his track wherever he goes. Our air power will continue to teach the German homeland that war is not all loot and triumph. We shall aid and stir the people of every conquered country to resistance and revolt. We shall break up and derange every effort which Hitler makes to systematize and consolidate his subjugations. He will find no peace, no rest, no halting place, no parley And if, driven to desperate hands, he attempts an invasion of the British Islands, as well he may, we shall not flinch from the supreme trial. With the help of God, of which we must all feel daily conscious, we shall continue steadfast in faith and duty till our task is done. This then, my Lords and gentlemen, is the message which we send forth to-day. To all States and nations, bound or free, to all men in all lands who care for freedom's cause, to our Allies and well-wishers in Europe, to our American friends and helpers drawing ever closer in their might across the ocean, this is the message—Lift up your hearts. All will come right. Out of the depths of sorrow and sacrifice will be borne again the glory of mankind."

PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT

Earlier in the week, President Roosevelt had put the new German peace offensive in its rightful place. He stated at a Press Conference at Washington that Mr. John G. Winant, American Ambassador, had not brought from England "even the tenth cousin of a peace offer" and added that German propaganda was responsible for the peace talk. Asked if he cared to say that Mr. Winant had brought no peace terms, the President authorized the following direct quotation—a very rare event—"Not even the tenth cousin of a peace offer or anything like that or any discussion of peace. Absolutely nothing like it, provided you use this not as a denial by the President but as an accusation by the President." Asked whom he was accusing, President Roosevelt said "The persons who are being duped by Germany." President Roosevelt volunteered the information that he had on his desk copies of two orders which, he said, had been issued by the official German Propaganda Agency in Berlin to Nazis and Fascists in the United States. The President declared that the first order told them to stress the idea that Germany had no thought of ever doing anything against any country in the Western Hemisphere (evidently in a direct reply to the President's fireside chat). The second ordered Nazi and Fascist sympathizers, as soon as Mr. Winant arrived in the United States, to spread the story that he had brought a "scarehead story" that Britain was about all in and was talking of peace. Mr. Roosevelt told another questioner that Mr. Winant had returned firstly in order to report on 25, possibly 50, major items relating to Britain's conduct of war and secondly to get information on a similar number of topics relating to defence to take back to Britain. Mr. Roosevelt expressed the opinion that the amazing thing was that stories of the type recommended by Germany had appeared in a certain type of newspaper in the United States. One reporter said that the impression was being spread that Britain had said that she could not last more than a few months without increased American help. The President replied that this had never been said unless it was by Berlin—it did not come from a responsible source. Another reporter remarked that the people would be shocked to hear that Germany was sending orders to the United States and asked how the orders were sent out and how the system operated. President Roosevelt declined to enter into details because, he said, it might disclose how he got this information but repeated that the orders came from the German Propaganda Bureau in Berlin. Mr. Winant himself said "There is no wavering at all on the part of the British Government. There is no wavering at all on the part of the people. It is the people's fight and they know it." He added that he was glad to say that American aid was crossing the Atlantic in increasing quantities. And

Lord Beaverbrook, Minister of State in the British Cabinet, broadcasting to Canada, said that Britain was absolutely confident she could beat off a German invasion. It was in no spirit of reluctance she entered the struggle; she was glad and ready to come to grips with the German forces.

AMERICA'S EVER-GROWING HELP TO BRITAIN

President Roosevelt, presenting his report to Congress on the operation of the Lease and Lend Act, announced that "a little over 75 million dollars" worth of defence materials had been transferred under its terms. Mr. Roosevelt added that this aid "will help Britain to outstrip the Axis powers in the munitions war. We shall see to it that these munitions get to places where they can be effectively used to weaken and defeat the aggressors. We have started in motion a vast supply programme essential to defeat the Axis powers. To be effective, the aid rendered by us must be many-sided. Ships are necessary to carry munitions and food. We are immediately making available to Britain two million gross tons of cargo ships and oil tankers but this is not enough. Adequate shipping for every day to come must be reasonably assured. Since the Appropriation Act was passed $550 millions have been allocated for the construction of new ships and new ways required to build these ships are now nearing completion. Allied ships are being repaired by us and Allied ships equipped by us to protect them from mines and being armed by us to protect them as much as possible against raiders. The naval vessels of Britain are being repaired by us so that they can return quickly to their naval tasks." President Roosevelt said that millions of pounds of foodstuff and stocks of machine-guns, field artillery, ammunition and aircraft valued at over forty-three million dollars had been sent. "This equipment arrived in England after the retreat from Dunkirk. . . No one can appraise what effect the delivery of these supplies had upon the successful British resistance in the summer and aututmn," President Roosevelt stated. The President's report to Congress covers the first shipments under the Lease and Lend Act from March 11 to the end of May and shows that out of a total of 75 million dollars, the greatest part, totalling over 26 million dollars, was for "Westcraft, etc." While the total was relatively small President Roosevelt noted that exports of war goods to Britain had risen steadily since September, 1939. He said that "he will supply planes, guns, ammunition and other defence articles in ever-increasing quantities to Britain, China and other democracies resisting aggression." President Roosevelt said that facts and figures were being given to the extent advisable without disclosing military secrets to the benefit of the Axis powers. "These facts describe the past and portray the present status of our aid to those nations so gallantly fighting aggressors. They do not represent the most important fact of all—the strong will of our people to see to it that these forces of aggression shall not rule the world. We have before us the constant purpose not of present safety alone but equally of future survival." In the first five months of this year, Britain was sent twelve times as many planes and ten times as many aircraft engines as during the first five months of last year, said President Roosevelt. "Relatively more heavy bombers and medium bombers are being sent," the President added, "and seventeen times as much in dollar value of explosives and ninety times as much in dollar valuation of firearms and ammunition in the first quarter of this year as in the same period of last year." Mentioning that major allocations under the Lease and Lend Act on May 31 were over 880 million dollars for ordnance stores, 318 million dollars for tanks and other vehicles, and 551 million dollars for ships, President Roosevelt added: "Contracts have been let for long-range bombers, ships, tanks and other sinews of war that will be needed for the defence of the Democracies. The balance of less than $2\frac{3}{4}$ billion is being rapidly allocated."

U.S. SHIP TORPEDOED

Mr. Sumner Wells, United States Under-Secretary of State, announced in grave tones to a Press Conference at Washington that a preliminary report from the Consul at Pernambuco revealed that the Robin Moor had undoubtedly been sunk by a German submarine. It is thought in America that this announcement marked the first step in preparing the stage for big devlopments. It is understood that the Robin Moor was carrying a general cargo of motor cars, steel and other mateials but no war munitions. The Brazilian steamer Osorio picked up some survivors but there is no trace of three life-boats loaded with passengers. Apart from confirming the barbarity of the U-boat campaign in leaving passengers and crew afloat in mid-ocean, the fact that the Robin Moor was an American steamer and that the passengers included women is likely to have world-wide repercussions.

And Mr. Alsop Kintner, writing in *The New York Herald Tribune*, says "While President Roosevelt is waiting for the Germans to shoot, there has already been shooting. He declared that an American destroyer, while picking up the survivors of a British vessel sunk not far from the coast of Greenland, heard through the detecting device the approach of a submarine and dropped three depth charges.

SWEEPING BRITISH SUCCESSES IN ABYSSINIA

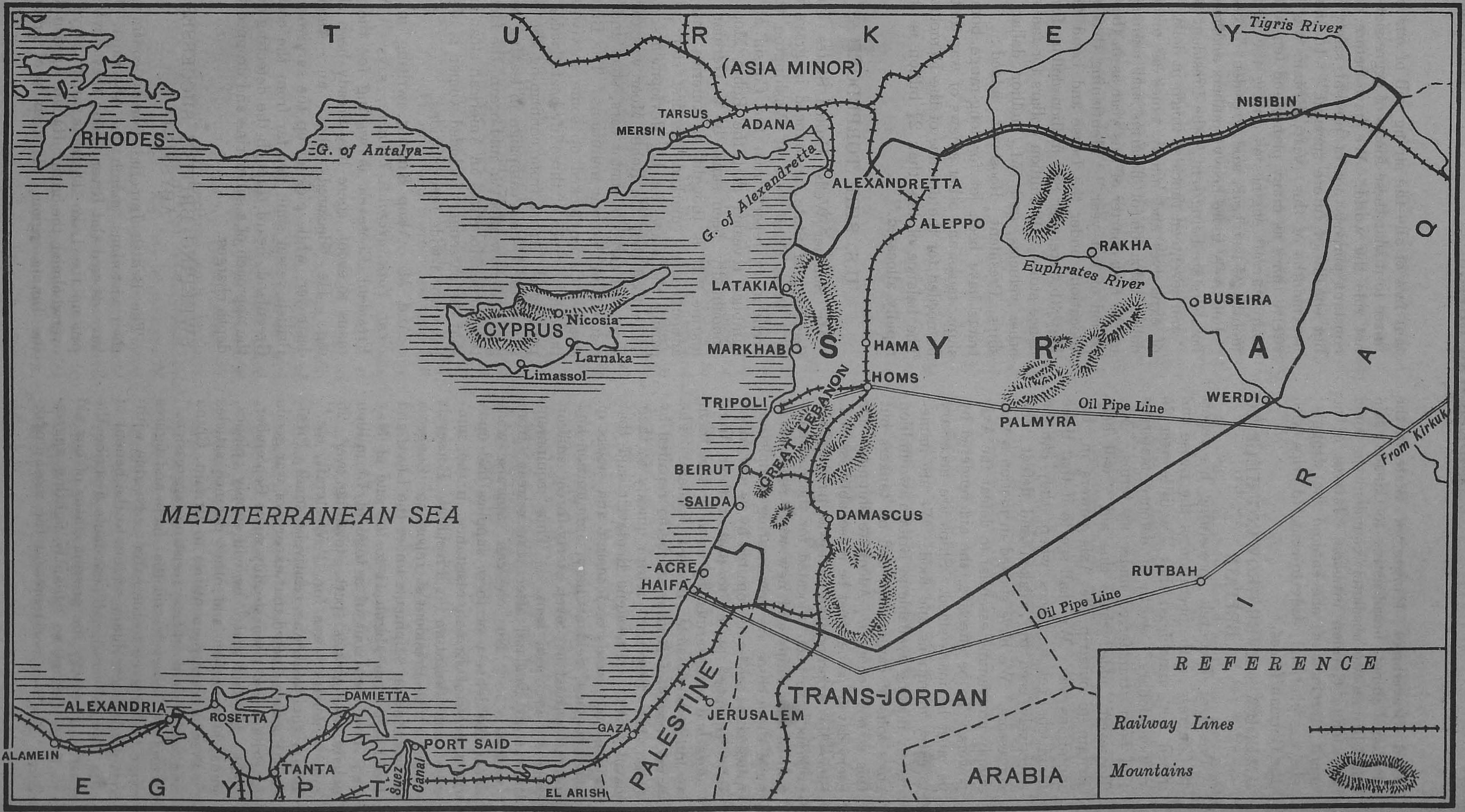
The British Imperial Forces continue on their victorious march in Abyssinia. They have crossed the River Omo; they have mopped up the Lake Districts; and they have overwhelmed the main Italian opposition in the Jimma region. Thousands of prisoners,

OUTLINE MAP

OF

S Y R I A

SCALE 1 INCH = 80 MILES



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Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras. 1941.

Italian and Colonial, are being rounded up and there has been a particularly valuable haul of war material. A further 45,000 square miles of territory have been captured from the Italians. The Emperor Haile Selassie has graciously acknowledged the heroic role played by Indian troops in the re-conquest of his country. Meanwhile the Royal Air Force continues to blaze away at the enemy bases, Benghazi, Derna and other places in Cyrenaica. And the Royal Navy is taking heavy toll of Axis supply ships in the Mediterranean This is enough to make Mussolini think furiously in this week which marks the first anniversary of the vile stab in the back that he administered to the French people and their Allies.

Indian soldiers again distinguished themselves when they made a suprise landing at Assab, the second port of Eritrea. They acted in perfect co-ordination with the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. They quickly occupied the town and took a number of prisoners, including the Italian Generals Varda and Piacontini and Captain Colla of the Italian Navy. A number of German seamen in the port were also captured.

FIRST INDIAN V.C. OF THE WAR

All India rejoices to hear that His Majesty the King-Emperor has approved the award of the Victoria Cross to Second Lieutenant Premindra Singh Bhagat of the Corps of Indian Engineers. He is the first Indian to win this greatest of all military distinctions in the present war. A press note, issued in Simla, says: After the attack from Gallabat and the capture of the Italian frontier post of Metemma, Second Lieutenant Bhagat was ordered with the section of Sappers and Miners under his command to accompany our leading mobile forces, who were pursuing the enemy as they retreated towards Gondar. Going ahead of our advancing column, he and his men had the most dangerous and difficult task of the whole force. The road was thickly strewn with minefields, blocks and booby traps. In each minefield there were upto 300 mines, and each mine had to be delicately uncovered and rendered harmless. At the same time the utmost speed was essential if the enemy was not to be allowed time to reorganize and prepare fresh positions which it would cost many lives to take. In spite of every precaution, Lieut. Bhagat's carrier was twice blown up, and many of his men killed or wounded. Once his section was ambushed by enemy machine guns. When, after 48 hours of arduous and perilous work, he took a short rest, he was offered relief. But he would not consider it. He felt he had learnt the Italian system of laying mines on that section of the road. Any relieving officer would take valuable time to learn the job all over again; and begged to be allowed to remain. His Commander agreed and for another two days he continued his work. Finally he collapsed from exhaustion and shock and with both eardrums burst by explosions, but not before he had succeeded in clearing 15 minefields and 55 miles of road. This young officer, who will be 23 next November, was commissioned from the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, where he was one of the outstanding students of his term, only two months before the outbreak of the war. After further training he was posted in May 1940, to the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners, in which unit his elder brother is also serving. His father, Mr. S. S. Bhagat, was formerly Executive Engineer, Civil Lines, Benares. Second Lieutenant P. S. Bhagat is the first Indian during the present war to receive the highest award for valour His Imperial Majesty can bestow. He earned it by what his Commanding Officer described as "one of the longest continued feats of sheer, cold courage I have ever met."

WHY WAS CRETE LOST?

There is naturally a good deal of outcry in Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand over the loss of Crete. All these countries are Great Democracies and the points arising from this defeat are likely to be discussed in the full glare of publicity, which is all to the good. The loss of Crete has deprived the Allies of advanced bases, both naval and air, and it has also created, according to *The Times*, a second narrow defile between the West Mediterranean and Egypt where the British Navy will be liable to heavy air attack. Of course, the channel between Crete and Cyrenaica is 200 miles wide and British air forces can operate from Egypt. Both the Navy attempting to prevent German troops arriving in Crete and the defenders who had no thought of retreat lacked air strength, a grave defect which, of course, would receive a good deal of attention. Public opinion in Australia and New Zealand has naturally insisted that in future land forces should be made to operate only after support in the air is absolutely assured. After putting up a magnificent fight in appalling conditions which unimpeded dive-bombers can create, the Allied Forces were forced to withdraw and there was no other course except to withdraw, regard being had to the fact that the Germans advanced beyond Suda Bay and there was a threat of attack on the eastern end of the Island. Dive-bombers succeeded over ground troops unsupported over the air and the Germans, of course, have now a valuable stepping stone to Syria and made another advance towards the Suez Canal. Success has been achieved by no secret weapon, but by the use of familiar weapons used in overwhelming mass —parachutists, gliders, troops-carriers and dive-bombers. The Allies, too, had counter-weapons, but they could not employ to useful purpose British fighters and bombers, because of the geographical position of Crete, a weakness which does not apply to the Middle East or to Britain. The British fleet was without

sound air-craft protection. It has been unmistakably proved that under certain conditions the air arm can enable any army to pass by the obstacle of enemy superiority at sea. Germany did not heed losses and taking advantage of the Allied weakness in respect of fighter defences, she was enabled to land quite a large number of troops by leaping over the naval obstacle. Taking reinforcements by air is, of course, quicker and easier than taking reinforcements by sea.

THE PERSPECTIVE

But one has got to remember that the Middle Eastern campaign has not been decided. It has not even reached a decisive stage. The resistance put up at Crete has enabled Great Britain to strengthen her military dispositions in the Middle East and reports say that South African reinforcements have arrived in Egypt from other theatres. British policy has, therefore, been to delay the Germans as long as possible at each outlying point, while increasing their strength at the decisive point. Greece, Crete and Cyrenaica, therefore, have to be considered as outlying points of a fortress, each to be defended as long as possible in order to allow the defenders of the citadel as long a time as possible to mobilise their full strength. Heavy and disappointing as the losses have been, they have to be looked at as against the large reserves realized by the conquest of Abyssinia, the reopening of the Iraq supply line, by the liquidation of Rashid Ali and the elimination of the Italian Fleet as a fighting force at Matapan.

Two campaigns, the Middle East and the Battle of the Atlantic, are still being waged. Shipping losses have been heavy. *H.M.S. Hood* has been sunk; but, as against this, the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* have been immobilized and the *Bismarck* has been sunk. American help is growing in volume and the patrol system is growing strong.

A COMPARISON

Perhaps the events of 1940 and 1941 may be compared and a balance-sheet arrived at. Germany by this time last year had overwhelmed Norway, Denmark, Holland and Belgium. Dunkirk had been evacuated and great losses had been sustained by Britain in arms and equipment. France was about to fall and Italy was on the point of declaring war. Great Britain had only destroyed four German cruisers and 12 destroyers in the Norwegian campaign. This year Yugoslavia. Greece and Cyrenaica have been taken by the Germans who have also occupied Crete. *H.M.S. Hood* has been lost and shipping losses have been heavy. But two Italian armies, totalling half a million men, have been destroyed in Abyssinia. Rashid Ali has fled from Iraq. What remains of the Italian Fleet is in hiding. Help from America is pouring into Britain and the Middle East in a steady stream and the *Bismarck* has been sunk. Again, Germany last year had immense superiority in both air and land forces. But this year Allied air strength is approaching parity and Allied armoured strength is growing rapidly. The secret weapons of Germany last year were the heavily armoured tank and the Stuka dive-bombers. There have been no surprises this year; and the Allies, with their new high-powered bombs and night-fighters, have surprised the Germans. The mischief which fifth columnists were doing last year has been greatly reduced; and Allied unity and determination is growing and is greater than ever before. Germany has passed its peak production, but the British war machine is being improved every day and is reaching its own peak production, while American output, already formidable, is growing in volume. Further, Britain has been and is unbeatable and it is obvious that if Germany is to be victorious, she must defeat Great Britain on her own soil. Delay in launching that attack indubitably decreases Germany's chances of success in a considerable measure. Last year America was sceptical, pessimistic and isolationist, but this year there has been a revolutionary change in American opinion and there is insistent demand for urgent aid to Great Britain to the point of becoming a belligerent, if necessary.

GERMAN NAVAL STRATEGY

There is a story behind the loss of *Bismarck* which is of some importance illustrating the differences between Admiral Raeder and Hitler in regard to Naval strategy. Admiral Raeder, Head of the German Naval Forces, believed in concentrating on submarines and fast commerce-destroying cruisers, but Hitler insisted on battleships being built because in his view, they should be regarded as 'projectiles' to be hurled at the enemy at the chosen moment. That is why the *Scharnhorst*, the *Gneisenau*, the *Bismarck* and the *Tirpitz* were built. Germany, at the outbreak of the war, had only nine cruisers, large and small. Perhaps four have been added to this list, but she has lost five. Hitler wanted these battleships for destroying the enemy's shipping and he deliberately did not intend the fleet for the purpose of destroying the enemy's fleet, or for coastal defence. Hitler has, however, been proved to be quite wrong. The *Scharnhorst* was severely damaged by the *Renown* near Norway and the *Blucher* was sunk by shore batteries in Oslo Fjord. The *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisenau*, which ventured into the Atlantic, have been forced into Brest, evidently because they have been very severely damaged and the *Bismarck* has been sunk only after a week's run. The 'projectile' theory, therefore, has proved to be untenable because the destructive power of an isolated battleship, so far as enemy merchantmen are concerned, is no greater than that of a cruiser, and it affords an equal target for attack.

Again, the loss of a battleship is far more serious than that of a cruiser and is more difficult to replace. Finally, using battleships as commerce-destroyers is like using a steam roller to level a garden walk. They are too vulnerable to attack to make the game worth the candle. In the loss of *Hood*, Britain has lost one-sixteenth of her battleship strength, but in the loss of *Bismarck* the Germans have lost one-sixth of theirs. Of the five remaining German battleships, two are pocket battleships, two are laid up at Brest and only one, *Tirpitz*, is left.

IN GERMANY NOW

Germans must work harder, eat less, wait longer for the promised victory that continually recedes. That is what Hitler tells them. Above all they must hear nothing of the truth from beyond their borders. Johann Wild, aged 49, listened to foreign broadcasts and was accused of passing on what he heard. He was executed at Nuremberg on May 18. We know what the Nazis do in the occupied countries, what they plan to do to yet other "inferior" peoples. A despatch published in the *New York Post* of May 1 now reveals what they are doing to Germans themselves—not this time to Jews or political opponents, but to the old and weak and helpless in their own country. The Nazis put to death during the months of September, October and November 1940, 85,000 blind, aged or "incurably ill" Germans. This horrible crime has been brought to light through religious organizations which vainly opposed the practice. A Catholic dignitary revealed that sick and aged persons were killed because they were no longer useful to the Nazi war-machine; they consumed supplies and occupied hospital space needed for wounded soldiers. The discovery by priests visiting a Wurtemberg hospital that elderly people were dying in large numbers on certain days led to the unmasking of the Gestapo methods of poison and the gas-chamber. The Catholics protested, both against this cold slaughter and against compulsory sterilization. As a result more than 300 priests were thrown into concentration-camps. One witness described it as "the ultimate logic of the Nazi doctrine."

MAGGOTS IN THE APPLE

"The maggot is in the apple", said Mr. Churchill when Hitler's closest friend Rudolf Hess fled from his country to become a British prisoner. Admiral Boehm, German Naval Commander-in-Chief in Norway, was also a friend of Rudolf Hess. He has committed suicide in an Oslo hotel. The loss of the *Bismarck*, which put out from the Norwegian port of Bergen on her fatal voyage, may have led Admiral Boehm to choose the same path as Capt. Langsdorff, who killed himself after scuttling the *Graf Spee*. It is also recalled that the Gestapo chief Himmler, in whose wake murder and suicide habitually follow, visited Norway recently. Italy has its maggots too. Latest of the brood are Achille Starace, one of the Duce's most trusted followers and once considered one of the seven pillars of Fascism, now out of his job as Chief of Staff of the Fascist Militia; and Dr. Sebastiani, for long Mussolini's confidential secretary, who has also disappeared from the political landscape.

WAR IN THE NEAR EAST

ALLIES MARCH INTO SYRIA

British Imperial and Free French Forces, led by Lt.-General Sir Henry Wilson, have entered Syria and the Lebanon in what may well prove to be one of the decisive movements of the war. A glance at the map is enough to show that Syria lies on the right—or more precisely on the flank of the route—of Germany's march to the East (*Drang nach Osten*). Its possession by the Axis powers would constitute a threat to the whole of the Allied position, both in the Mediterranean and in the Middle East. Luckily, however, it is not Germany or Italy but Britain who rules the Mediterranean in spite of a temporary setback in Crete. Lacking command of the sea, Germany cannot work much mischief in Syria. On the other hand, if the Allies occupy Syria, they can reinforce their supremacy at sea with control of the vital centres of land communications in the Near East. And, as Mr. Charles Towers, the famous author and traveller, remarks, possession of Damascus, Syria's most important city and the stronghold of Arab nationalism, will be an immense gain in prestige and power. It will mean the defeat of German and Italian aspirations in the East and their intrigue and propaganda to set the Arabs up against the Allies.

Indeed, the war has seen a most striking demonstration of Arab sympathy for Britain. Barring the short-lived German subsidized revolt of Rashid Ali in Iraq, the whole Arab world desires the defeat of Germany and Italy. The Arabs well know that the consequences of an Axis victory will be the loss of political liberties already achieved under British aegis and under pre-Vichy France. They also remember, despite Mussolini's pretensions to be the "Protector of Islam," the cruelties and barbarities practised on the Orientals by his Commander, Marshal Graziani, who has earned the nickname of "the butcher." And they cannot hope for better treatment at the hands of the Nazis with their fantastic and fanatical theories of race superiority. It may well be that history is repeating itself; that like Allenby's historic Eastern victories in the Great War, the occupation of Syria may mark a real turn of the tide in this conflict.

RECENT HISTORY

Syria is one of the nine states that replaced the former Turkish Empire as a result of the peace treaties of 1920–21, the others being Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Egypt, Transjordan, Palestine, and the Lebanon, which, nominally an independent republic was placed under the same League of Nations Mandate with Syria. Of these, we are here more immediately concerned with Syria and the Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan. Syria, situated on the shores of the Eastern Mediterranean, north of Palestine, comprises an area of 58,000 square miles and has a population of 3,400,000, mostly Arabic-speaking. Formerly a part of the Ottoman Empire, Syria was placed under Mandatory Administration at the end of the Great War. A Congress of Syrian Arabs in 1920 had proclaimed Emir Feisal—son of King Hussein of the Hedjaz, supporter of the Allied cause in the war—as King of Syria; but the Allies did not sanction this move and Feisal left Syria (to become King of Iraq). Syria under the French Mandate, was divided into four states as follows :—

1. Syria proper (49,000 square miles; population 2,000,000; capital Damascus).
2. The Lebanon (3,800 square miles; population 700,000 Christians and Arabs; capital Beirut, also the seat of the French administration.)
3. Latakia (2,800 square miles; population 350,000, belonging to the Alaonite people).
4. Jebel Druse (2,400 square miles; population 50,000, mostly warlike Muslim sect).

There are also about 300,000 nomad Bedouins. The four Syrian States have now no political connection with each other, except they are all under the French Mandate; a former Syrian Confederation was dissolved in 1924. And France ceded the Sanjak of Alexandretta to Turkey in 1938.

Syria proper is about as large as England and Wales. An important part of it is a coastal plain which is as narrow as five miles in the north, widening to 20 in the south. Inland, there is a wide limestone plateau bisected by the upper part of the Jordan valley ("The Ghor") running north to south. In Lebanon, to the south, the scrap reaches 10,000 feet over sea-level falling by steps towards the east to the Euphrates valley. In its general relief, Syria presents four sections, each parallel with the coast—a coastal plain, a limestone ridge varying from 7,000 to 10,000 feet over sea-level, then an upland reaching 4,000 feet in the centre and, finally, another limestone ridge. Both rail and road communications are good. Syria has over 4,000 miles of railway along strategic routes and with important sections. In the north, Aleppo has lines going to the west coast of Turkish-controlled Alexandretta, Ankara and Istanbul; in the east to Mosul, Baghdad and Basara, in the south through Homs, Baalbeck and Damascus before it traverses Transjordan to end in Arabia at Medina, where there is a road to Mecca on the pilgrim route, but now of considerable military importance. Tripoli is the Syrian Mediterranean port and one of the termini of the oil pipe-line from Iraq, connected with Homs and Beirut, another gateway to

the sea with Damascus. The Palestinian ports of Haifa (the other terminus of the oil pipe-line) and Jaffa have also lines going eastwards inland, north and south. Three French companies normally operate the motor routes along 1,500 miles from Beirut to Baghdad. The shortest, of excellent surface, is from Damascus eastwards across the desert to Ramadi and from here along the Euphrates to Feluga. Another is through Palmyra and Hit, while the third goes from Homs to Palmyra and Abu Kemal (Ana) connecting with Aleppo or Rutbah and joining Jerusalem. While the Syrian desert is used by the Imperial Airways and other companies, the desert routes are by no means ideal for air traffic as the intensity of the heat and the rapid changes in temperature experienced create dangerous atmospheric conditions, while there are sudden descents from the snow-covered mountains near the coast to a high plateau and low desert levels. The climate of Syria is of the Mediterranean type, with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers. But in the north, where the elevation is low, rain is carried far inland, facilitating good agriculture, even good cotton growing. In the south there is heavy rainfall in the western highlands; these act as a barrier making the interior very dry. Little snow falls along the coasts, but much on the higher Lebanon mountains and on the inlands steppes. In the favoured coastal districts winter and spring are the growing season for crops, which are harvested in June. Syria is mainly an agricultural country with large areas occupied by sheep and cattle reared on the steppe land. Ten per cent is under crops. Wheat, maize, wine and citrus fruits are cultivated. Inland cities have developed from their positions on the old caravan routes and as markets. Thus, Damascus was essentially a desert market. To-day it is surrounded by 60 miles of irrigated fruit gardens, and its people work in silk, gold and silver. Its trade now passes through the port of Beirut instead of through the desert. Aleppo in the north is the market for the steppes. Its craftsmen make cotton and silk textiles and the famous gold and silver "thread." Beirut is by far the most important port. The Mediterranean off the Syrian coast is not very stormy and the harbours usually have good roads.

France has never been able to curb the fiery independence of the Arab race who were spurred on by the freedom which Great Britain, another Mandatory power, granted to the neighbouring kingdom of Iraq. The Syrians rebelled in 1925–26 and have been more or less in a state of semi-rebellion until recently. In 1936, the Popular Front Government in France under M. Leon Blum signed treaties with Syria (on 9th September) and with the Lebanon (on 13th November), providing for complete independence in 1940—that is, three years after ratification by the French Parliament. The delay in ratification caused considerable unrest in Syria early in 1939, accompanied by anti-French demonstrations. The Syrian Legislative Chamber voted a resolution, proposing that the Syrian Government should immediately take over all public powers then in the hands of the French "as Syria is now perfectly independent". In February 1939, the decision of the French Government not to ratify the Franco-Syrian Treaty precipitated a Cabinet crisis in Damascus. The Syrian Nationalists, a majority in the Syrian Parliament, carried on such extremist agitation that violent disorders occurred and the French High Commissioner, Gabriel Puaux, took over control of the police and gendarmerie. In July 1939, M. Puaux suspended the Syrian constitution and announced the intervention of the Mandatory power.

AFTER FRANCE'S COLLAPSE

The outbreak of the war and then the collapse of France gave rise to much uncertainty and confusion in Syria. Major William Yale gives the following graphic report of the subsequent developments: The French High Commissioner declared on June 24, that General Eugene Mittelhauser, who had succeeded General Weygand in the command of the French forces in Syria, did not contemplate surrender and was determined to fight on. But four days later it was announced from Beirut that by agreement between M. Puaux and General Mittlehauser a cessation of hostilities had been decided upon. The French flag would be flown in Syria and the French forces there would defend the Syrian frontiers against any and all aggressors. The situation provoked division among the French as well as the Syrians. Some supported Marshal Petain's Government at Vichy and favoured the establishment of a French Fascist regime in Syria; others supported Gen. Charles de Gaulle and the British. French officers and troops deserted and fled to Palestine to volunteer for service with the British. So many Syrians left their towns and villages to join the British forces in Palestine that, by the end of 1940, the French High Commissioner decreed heavy penalties upon cities and villages from which Syrians volunteered for service with foreign arms. An Italian Military Commision arrived in Syria to supervise the demobilization of the French forces, which were reduced to an estimated number of 20,000, half of which are colonial Senegalese. Some of the Syrians looked to Italy for deliverance from the yoke of France, but the Italians' defeats at the hands of both the Greeks and the British soon made the Syrians realize that their future depended upon the British. Economic distress in Syria has become increasingly serious since the collapse of the French and since the British blockade has ended all trade with France. A cessation of commercial activities, a currency crisis, and a curtailment of transportation are all fostering unrest in Syria.

The Men of Vichy have thrown the honour of France to the four winds and have shown an ever-increasing disposition to collaborate

with the Germans against their former Allies. Under German pressure no doubt, they have announced their withdrawal from the League of Nations; and legally, as well as morally, they have no right to let the German hordes loose on the Syrians and to bind Syria to the chariot of the Nazi war-lord.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION

Countless reports have come from neutral sources of the influx of German soldiers and airmen in Syria and mere categorical denials by Vichy fail to convince. In sheer self-defence and as a measure of precaution, the Free French Troops, with the support of the British, Indian and other Imperial Forces, entered Syria and the Lebanon on the morning of 9th June. General Catroux, Free French Commander, issued a declaration on behalf of General de Gaulle, guaranteeing the liberty and independence of Syria and the Lebanon, and undertaking to negotiate a treaty with these objects. The British Government associated themselves with this promise. In their declaration the British Government said : " In their declaration of July 1st, 1940, His Majesty's Government had stated that they would not allow Syria and the Lebanon to be occupied by any hostile power or to be used as a base for attack upon those countries in the Middle East which they are pledged to defend. Despite this clear warning, the Vichy Government, in pursuance of their policy of collaboration with the Axis powers, have placed air bases in Syria, and the Lebanon at the disposal of Germany and Italy and have supplied war materials to rebel forces in Iraq. German infiltration into Syria has begun and the Vichy Government are continuing to take measures, the effect of which must be to bring Syria and the Lebanon under full German control. His Majesty's Government could not be expected to tolerate such actions, which go far beyond anything laid down in the terms of the French Armistice and are in flagrant conflict with the recent declaration of Marshal Petain that honour forbade France to undertake anything against her former Allies. The Free French Forces have therefore, with the support of the Imperial Forces, entered Syria and the Lebanon at an early hour on the morning of Sunday, the 8th June 1941. At the same time, a declaration has been issued by General Catroux on behalf of General de Gaulle, guaranteeing the liberty and independence of Syria and the Lebanon and undertaking to negotiate a treaty to ensure these objects. His Majesty's Government support and associate themselves with this promise of independence."

General Catroux, in an inspiring call to the Syrians and the Lebanese said :—" Inhabitants of Syria and the Lebanon! At a moment when the forces of Free France, united to the forces of the British Empire, her Ally, are entering your territory, I declare that I assume the powers, responsibilities and duties of the representatives of *La France au Levant*. I do this in the name of Free France, who identifies herself with the traditional and real France and in the name of her chief, General de Gaulle. In this capacity, I have come to put an end to the mandatory regime and to proclaim you free and independent. You will, therefore, be from henceforward sovereign and independent peoples and you will be able either to form yourselves into separate States or to unite into a single State. In either event, your sovereign status will be guaranteed by a treaty, in which our mutual relations will be defined. This treaty will be negotiated as soon as possible between your representatives and myself. Pending its conclusion our mutual position will be one of close unity in pursuit of the common idea and common aims. You will see from this declaration that if the Free French and British Forces cross your frontier, it is not to take away your liberty, but to ensure it. It is to drive out of Syria the forces of Hitler. It is to prevent the Levant from becoming an enemy base, directed against the British and against yourselves. We, who are fighting for the liberty of the people, cannot allow the enemy to submerge your country step by step and obtain control of your persons and your belongings and turn you into slaves. We cannot allow the population, which France has promised to defend, to be thrown into the hands of the most wanton and pitiless master that history has known. We cannot allow the age-long interests of France in the Levant to be handed over to the enemy. Inhabitants of Syria and the Lebanon! If, in answer to our appeal, you rally to us, you should know that the British Government, in the agreement with Free France, have promised to grant you all the advantages enjoyed by the free countries who are associated with them. Thus the blockade will be lifted and you will enter into immediate relations with the Sterling Bloc, which will open up the widest possibilities to your imports and exports. You will be able to buy and sell freely with all free countries. Inhabitants of Syria and the Lebanon! The great hour in your history has sounded for you. France declares you independent by the voice of her sons, who are fighting for your life and for the libertv of the world."

OTHER ARAB SUPPORTERS OF ALLIES

Transjordan is an important buffer state between Palestine, Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia, with possession of the highly important port of Qaba, which is part of the alternative land and water route to the Suez Canal. It is ruled by Emir Abdullah, third son of the late King Hussein. Britain protects Transjordan from being over-run by tribesmen and the Emir has loyally declared his adherence to the Allied cause in this war. He recently gave asylum to the lawful Regent of Iraq when Rashid Ali staged his brief revolt.

(*Continued on Page* 16)

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

The immortal Ark Royal

The part played in the *Bismarck's* destruction by the *Ark Royal* and her aircraft should cause the loudest atmospherics in Dr. Goebbel's headphones. It was on September 7, 1939 that a broadcast from Zeesen first asked "Where is the *Ark Royal?* ", quickly supplying the answer: "She was bombed and sunk by the Germans."

The same question and the same answer were repeated intermittently, and in November, Corporal Frank of the German Air Force got the Iron Cross for sinking the aircraft-carrier. Shortly afterwards, however (December 18, 1939), Goebbels accused the *Ark Royal* of "lying in wait" for the *Graf Spee* off the River Plate. And on July 11 last he inflicted on this immortal vessel "two direct hits by bombs of heavy calibre."

Perhaps this was why Goebbels announced on May 28 that among the vessels which hunted the *Bismarck* to her doom was "an un-named air-craft carrier!"

Just being neighbourly

Berlin reported on May 27 the return to Spain of Senor Salvador Marino, a distinguished Spanish official, after a visit to Germany, during which (so Berlin says) he found the entire German nation united behind the Fuehrer and fully confident of victory.

The most recent of distinguished German visitors to Spain was Herr Rudolf Hess, and it seems a pity that he was not in a position to welcome Senor Marino to the Fatherland and further confirm his impressions of Nazi solidarity.

A sneer misdirected

Angered by Field-Marshal Smuts's affirmation of his faith in ultimate British victory, Berlin sneers that South Africa's veteran Premier enjoys "quite a singular reputation as a turn-coat."

Few statesmen in the world today can boast so straightforward a record of policy as can Jan Christian Smuts. As a citizen of the old Transvaal Republic, he fought well and cleanly against the British in the Boer War. At the conclusion of the struggle, he accepted the principle of Anglo-Dutch co-operation, and has stood firmly for that principle throughout the past 40 years. To-day, as always, Field-Marshal Smuts bases his faith and actions on his country's collaboration with Britain and the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Vichy's protest

Berlin announced with unction on May 31 that the Vichy Government had protested to Britain against the Royal Air Force's bombing of the harbour of Sfax, in Tunis. Vichy's inadmissible contention is that this was an infringement of international law.

Even according to the rules of international law, Britain was justified in raiding this port, *where an Italian supply ship was taking shelter.* But the men of Vichy, who have sold Syria to the Nazis and have permitted no less than 146,000 tons of war material to be imported into Germany through France, should be among the last to seek shelter behind the provisions of international law.

Iraqi Regent's "unknown destination."

Simultaneously with her now frustrated attempts to stir up trouble in Iraq. Germany has been trying to prove that grave unrest also exists in Transjordania. Perhaps with the idea of killing two birds with one stone, Berlin announced on May 31: "According to reports from Beirut, the situation in Transjordania has become critical. Abdul Illah, the former Regent of Iraq, has left Amman, the Transjordanian capital, for an unknown destination."

The rightful (not former) Regent of Iraq's return to his own country had been reported three days before this would-be-mysterious announcement was broadcast from Berlin; and all the world knows that the Emir Abdul Illah's "unknown destination" was his own capital, Baghdad—which he entered in triumph on June 1, after the ignominious flight of Hitler's Quisling, Rashid Ali, and the members of his puppet "government."

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

President Roosevelt's pledge

In their weekly review of news in Bengali, the Nazis wrongly stated on May 29 that President Roosevelt had disappointed Britain by saying that U.S.A. would not continue to supply war material to England to the extent she had been doing.

Mr. Roosevelt said nothing of the kind. On the contrary, he declared: "We have doubled and redoubled our vast production, increasing month by month our output of material and supply of tools of war for ourselves, Britain and China—and eventually for all democracies. The supply of these tools will not fail, it will increase."

As for the delivery of these supplies to Britain, Mr. Roosevelt continued: "All additional measures necessary for the delivery of goods will be taken. This can be done; it must be done, and it will be done."

Britain and Iraq

On May 26 Berlin's Hindustani and Arabic broadcasts repeated the baseless lie that Britain wanted to destroy Iraq. Anglo-Iraq history, however, is a refutation of this mendacious Nazi falsehood. At the beginning of the war of 1914–18, Iraq was a province of the Turkish empire.

Britain fought Iraq's battles, sent her best brains to guide Iraq and organize her administration, trained her army, developed her natural resources and finally had her recognized as an independent sovereign state.

Rashid Ali's exit

Hitler's subservient tool, Rashid Ali, according to the Nazis' Hindustani broadcasts of May 29, stated that the entire Iraqi nation was willing to fight the British. The news of Rashid Ali's flight to Iran, received in London on May 31, conclusively proves that Iraqi public opinion had made itself felt and got rid of the Iraqi Quisling, who preferred the perjured Nazis, with the blood of 14 nations on their hands, to a proved friend. Moreover, Iraq's legal Regent, Abdul Illah, has been enthusiastically received in Iraq, and the leading Kurdish chieftain in Northern Iraq, Daud Pasha Haidari, has pointed out that the Kurds had joined the Arabs in forming the kingdom of Iraq on condition that they would be permanent allies of the British. "The Kurds," he said, "will rise as one man against those who have so shamefully violated the constitution of the country."

Mr. Eden on Syrian aspirations

Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani broadcast of May 30 ascribed to the English newspapers the suggestion that the British Government should capture Syria. Since the Vichy Government have, in violation of their armistice terms, placed the Syrian aerodromes at the disposal of their Nazi masters, the British Government is justified in taking action against its enemies wherever they are found.

As for Syria and her people, Mr. Eden in his speech on May 29 expressed the greatest sympathy for their aspirations towards independence, and declared that His Majesty's Government would give its full support to any scheme that commanded general approval.

Vichy's betrayal of Syrian Muslims

The Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of May 28, by declaring that Syrian Muslims had declared holy war against the British, suggested that Britain had let loose war on Syria. Actually, as the Egyptian paper *Al Mokattam* remarks, by allowing the Germans access to air bases in Syria, France is exposing the people of Syria to the horrors of war. The paper adds: "If public opinion in all Arab and Moslem countries had condemned the misguided policy of Rashid Ali, what will the Moslem world think of Vichy in breaking faith with the people of Syria? Britain has every justification for taking whatever measures she deems fit for safeguarding her interests and preventing German assistance from reaching Rashid Ali."

Nazi Tales about Palestine

On May 28 the Nazi radio (in Hindustani) reported clashes between the British troops and Arabs in Palestine and Transjordan. This Axis propaganda is utterly baseless. There have been no clashes, no rebellions and no disturbances. The normality of life in Palestine is illustrated by the visit of the British High Commissioner to Jaffa, where he stayed for a night like an ordinary visitor, touring the markets and the old city, and in the morning calling on the Mayor, Abdur Raouf Birar, at his home.

WAR IN THE NEAR EAST

(*Continued from Page* 14)

Palestine was conquered by General Allenby in 1917 and has since been under British Mandatory Administration. Continued differences between the Arabs and the Jews have marked the recent history of Palestine. Finally, a British White Paper, issued on 17th May 1939, and approved by Parliament, stated that the objective of His Majesty's Government was to establish an "independent Palestinean State, the two peoples sharing authority in government in such a way that the essential interests of each were secured." The Palestinean State is to be set up ten years hence and to be "on such treaty relations with the United Kingdom as will provide satisfactorily for the commercial and strategic requirements of both countries." The war has intervened; and the strife between Arabs and Jews has died down. Both loyally stand by Britain.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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